

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 033245

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 033245

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, US

SUBJECT: JAPAN AND CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE REVELATIONS

1. AT HIS REQUEST DEPUTY VICE MINISTER ARITA MET WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL ON MORNING OF FEB. 9. MEETING WAS HELD AT MR. INGERSOLL'S APARTMENT BECAUSE OF ARITA'S DESIRE TO AVOIDPRESS KNOWLEDGE OF SESSION. ARITA POSED FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

2. WILL JAPANESE OFFICIAL'S NAMES BE REVEALED? DEPUTY SECRETARY TOLD ARITA THAT SENATOR PERCY AND SUBCOMMITTEE GENERAL COUNSEL HAVE ASSURED US THAT NAMES OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WOULD NOT BE REVEALED.

3. WILL SUBCOMMITTEE BE MAKING FURTHER DISCLOSURES ABOUT JAPAN? DEPUTY SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WE UNDERSTOOD THAT SUBCOMMITTEE HAS COMPLETED ITS DISCUSSION OF JAPAN. TRANSCRIPT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION, WITH NAMES DELETED, WILL BE RELEASED WITHIN A WEEK, AND WE WILL FURNISH JAPANESE EMBASSY WITH COPY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 033245

4. IN RESPONSE TO DEPUTY SECRETARY'S QUESTIONS ARITA

SAID THAT:

A. PRESS SPECULATION IN TOKYO HAS CENTERED ON TANAKA AND NAKASONE AS LIKELY RECIPIENTS OF LOCKHEED FUNDS CHanneLED THROUGH KODAMA, OSANO, AND MARUBENI.

B. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT THE REPERCUSSIONS OF THIS EVENT. THE MIKI GOVERNMENT COULD FALL AND BE REPLACED BY A GOVERNMENT WITH A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE TOWARD THE US OR MIKI MIGHT BE OBLIGED TO POSTPONE THE ELECTION UNTIL CLOSER TO THE DECEMBER CONSTITUTIONAL LIMIT.

C. THE GOJ INVESTIGATION WILL FOCUS ON THE INCOME TAX RETURNS AND VIOLATIONS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROLS. JAPANESE LAW DOES NOT PROHIBIT POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PRIVATE FIRMS, INCLUDING FOREIGN FIRMS.

4. DEPUTY SECRETARY ASSURED ARITA THAT USG WOULD NOT CHANGE ITS POLICY TOWARD JAPAN AND BOTH AGREED THAT THE EPISODE WOULD HAVE NO IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON US-JAPAN RELATIONS.

5. ARITA STRESSED THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS STRICTLY TO GATHER INFORMATION AND WAS IN NO WAY MEANT TO INFLUENCE ANY BRANCH OF US GOVERNMENT. DEPUTY SECRETARY SUGGESTED THAT ARITA MIGHT WISH TO TALK TO FORMER SECRETARY ROGERS (WHOSE FIRM REPRESENTS LOCKHEED) OR DIRECTLY TO LOCKHEED OFFICIALS.

6. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ARITA WILL BE IN WASHINGTON UNTIL FEB. 12. HIS PRESENCE HERE HAS OF COURSE BECOME KNOWN BUT HIS MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY HAS NOT. ACCORDINGLY EMBASSY SHOULD HOLD ABOVE CLOSELY. INGERSOLL

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